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Bureau of Workforce Programs (BWP)
MiRSA Guidance Letter (GL No. 07-01)

DATE: January 8, 2007

TO: Michigan Regional Skills Alliances (MiRSA)*

FROM: Brenda C. Njiwaji, Director
Bureau of Workforce Programs

SUBJECT: Duplicating similar MiRSA Initiatives within a Region

1. Purpose

To outline the Bureau of Workforce Program's position on creating new MiRSAs when a MiRSA serving similar industries in a similar geographic region already exists.

2. Background

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG)/BWP awards grants to start-up and expand Michigan Regional Skills Alliances. The State of Michigan's objective for the MiRSA initiative is to assist local areas in developing industry-based partnerships that will promote the economic health and welfare of area's businesses and workers. MiRSAs are encouraged to have strong employer engagement. Requesting employers to participate in more than one MiRSA within the same industry sector and similar geographic area are an unnecessary burden on employers. Therefore, the State of Michigan will designate only one MiRSA for a particular industry sector and similar geographic region.

3 Action Required

All instances where the request for designation as a MiRSA is received that duplicate an existing MiRSA will result in a request from the State for the proposed MiRSA to work within the structure of the existing MiRSA. The State of Michigan recognizes that employers may identify the need to expand the geographic region of an industry sector and/or broaden current MiRSA activities as employers identify other workforce issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, applications for a MiRSA designation that are within the same industry sector and similar geographic region will be reviewed if:

1. The new MiRSA is proposing to merge with an existing MiRSA to:
 - a. Expand the industry base
 - b. Expand the region
2. The existing MiRSA is expanding the geographic region or the industry base.

4. Inquiries

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to the RSA Program Manager
(517) 335-5177

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